Acknowledgments

Producing this history has proved a challenging, unexpectedly exciting, and immensely rewarding endeavor. My task would have been virtually impossible, however, without benefit of widespread assistance. Were I to single out a sine qua non, it would surely be the support I have received from Albert B. Davis, whose constant enthusiasm and considerable knowledge have been invaluable. He has been a patient mentor, guiding me through intricacies of engineering detail and explaining seemingly inextricable pieces of information. His critical review of the first draft is in great measure responsible for technical accuracy in the narrative. I am enormously grateful to him for faithfully continuing to share his expertise and maintain his interest in this project since his retirement in 1975.

I was especially blessed with the services of Polly A. Young, who did far more than type the manuscript and proofread galleys with me. I shall be ever thankful for her accomplished skills, unfailing good humor, meticulous attention to detail, and enthusiastic dedication to the undertaking. Niels A. Nilson generously satisfied my need for honest and thoughtful criticism, spending many hours reviewing drafts at each stage of revision. He deserves credit for much of what is coherent and concise in the final narrative and I am deeply indebted to him for performing this tedious, but indispensable, chore.

From the Engineer Historical Division in Baltimore, Dr. Jesse A. Remington offered inspiration and guidance of which I freely and gratefully availed myself. I was fortunate also in receiving professional assistance from Dr. Albert E. Cowdrey, Lenore Fine, and Dr. Charles E. Walker. The revisions suggested by Dr. Cowdrey aided me immeasurably in making needed editorial improvements.

The visual merits of this book are largely due to the efforts of Larry C. Dunaway, who processed negatives for all the artwork, and to Gilbert Trevino, who redrew and adapted the many maps and illustrations that were unsuitable for reproduction as they were. John A. Heckendorn executed the cover design and Patricia J. Hughton assisted also with the illustrations.

Without exception, employees throughout the district spared no effort to root out information and answer my questions. Those kind enough to review selected portions of the drafts included: Thomas W. Anderson, John C. Batey, Vernon E. Bennett, Robert W. Brinegar, William P. Hamblen III, Victor C. Keesecker, Ronald H. Nelson, Chester Pawlik, Jonathan L. Ransom, Warren K. Smith, and Ernest H. Wittig III. Kenneth B. Bonham, Ronald C. Geasland, and Marion B. Lee read most

of the first draft. Michael B. Hughes cheerfully undertook responsibility for proper citation of legal references under the guidance of William A. Hough.

Countless other individuals helped. As a bewildered stranger to the Corps, I greatly appreciated the guidance and assistance offered by district librarian Mildred R. West, Paul C. Wilson, Jr., and the late Edward A. Rogers. Vivian J. Miller dug out materials I needed and would have never known existed. Personnel in the Office of Administrative Services welcomed me warmly into their midst and assisted in innumerable ways. Responsible for administering my contract, Ron Geasland earned my sincere gratitude by providing cooperation far beyond the call of duty. Ken Bonham helped me select photographs of various district projects and William Arteaga furnished valued advice and assistance on artwork. E. Elsie Southerland provided generous and efficient help in completing the index. Franklin E. Beal took me on a memorable tour of the Brownsville area and Donald E. Driggs helpfully showed me the hurricane-flood protection at Texas City. Diane Huber assisted with proofreading and other chores at the last minute. Betty G. Manaster also reviewed the galley proofs.

Former personnel of the Galveston District contributed vital information. These gentlemen graciously shared their knowledge and recollections with me, filling in many gaps where documentary evidence left off. I am particularly grateful to Edwin A. Pearson, without whom I would have had considerable difficulty reconstructing the district's military history. He accorded a high priority to this task and made himself available to furnish much of the essential structure and detail for the chapter on military works. Other former employees who provided glimpses of the past were Charles F. Baehr, Jack F. Beck, Norman W. Brown, Glen F. Egan, the late Thomas W. Forman, Howard L. Heald, the late Darrell L. Jackson, Wilbur E. Laird, H. R. Norman, William C. Rettiger, M. R. Royar, Herbert E. Schmidt, Jack M. Simpson, J. Bruce Walters, E. A. Weiser, and Wylie H. White.

Further aid came from outside the Corps organization. Robert A. Nesbitt of the Galveston Wharves gave much-appreciated encouragement and support. I am further indebted to him for making possible creation and use of the fine Hendley Building illustration drawn by Ralph L. Stuart, to whom I am also extremely grateful. Staff members at the Galveston Daily News were most hospitable in making available their old newspapers and files. Personnel at Galveston's Rosenberg Library cooperated in every way; Larry J. Wygant, former archivist, deserves special mention for his expert assistance as does his successor, Jane Kenamore. The Port of Houston furnished a copy of its excellent history and Maury

Darst of Galveston College kindly shared materials from his personal collection of local historical documents. Emery A. Dilda and Howard D. Duckett of the Government Printing Office in Dallas provided invaluable typographic and printing expertise. Thanks go also to Louise Carver for her careful preparation of the index.

The many other district employees who responded to my requests and who exhibited interest in the progress of this history helped more than they will ever know. To them and to all those who contributed, but who are too many to enumerate, I am truly grateful. Although their names do not appear here, I hope they will gain satisfaction from recognizing their contributions in the book.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the members of the district historical committee for giving me the opportunity to produce their history. No less deserving of thanks are my husband, Jack, and son, Bruce, who have endured my preoccupation with this project with understanding and forbearance.

For the sake of readability, I have necessarily sacrificed considerable detail. Ideally, these omissions will serve to stimulate historians to pursue more specific research in the future. For errors in fact or interpretation that may appear, I claim sole responsibility.

L. M. A.

